



April 25, 2013

**UNITED STATES ATTORNEY**

**TIMOTHY J. HEAPHY**

I. **Introduction**

Good afternoon and thank you all for being here today. My name is Tim Heaphy, and I am the United States Attorney for the Western District of Virginia.

I am proud to be joined here today by Drew Oosterbann. Drew is the Chief of the Department of Justice's Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section. CEOS, as it is known in the Department, is responsible for handling or assisting on cases involving child pornographers and other defendants looking to exploit children. They

were vitally involved in the prosecution of Mr. Coleman and I am happy to have Drew here to talk about the great work they do.

Nancy Healy and Darcy Katzin are also here. They are the two attorneys who prosecuted this case and led to today's just outcome.

We want to talk about the case against Mr. Coleman and use it as an example of the Department of Justice's continuing commitment to protecting the innocence of our children by prosecuting those who seek to do them harm.

## II. United States v. Jesse Leon Coleman

In February 2012, a group of nine men from several states and Russia, were indicted on charges that they conspired to distribute, receive and possess child pornography.

Jesse Coleman, a resident of Lynchburg, was one of those nine. Others included defendants from Pennsylvania, Florida, Oregon, California, Alabama and South Carolina.

These men, including Mr. Coleman, met each other online. They

each accessed public web sites that offered images of child pornography. They communicated shared interest in child pornography on these web sites, and the conspiracy charged in this case began.

In August 2010, a man who represented himself to be “Andy Danilov” began distributing child pornography to these co-conspirators. Danilov solicited people interested in child pornography - pedophiles - to regularly receive emails from him with attached pornographic images. The emails sent to the group members contained links to sequentially numbered compressed files, as well as file attachments, depicting child pornography. These images contained heart-wrenching, just awful depictions of child pornography and child rape.

This wasn’t just something Mr. Coleman wandered into, or somehow accidentally got onto a mailing list. During the time in which this conspiracy operated, “Danilov” ensured that all 59 people on his email list of pedophiles, including Coleman, confirmed their desire to continue to receive these regular emails and the attached child

pornography images. None of the group members, including Coleman, stopped the flow of these images. Rather, they willingly accepted, downloaded and viewed these vile images of exploitation.

In fact, between October 31, 2010 and March 13, 2011, Mr. Coleman received 119 emails from “danilov” many of which contained images of child pornography.

In November 2011, law enforcement executed a search warrant on Mr. Coleman’s residence, at which time the defendant admitted to routinely receiving files and links to child pornography via email.

In November 2012, Mr. Coleman pled guilty to one count of receipt of child pornography. He was sentenced today here in federal court to 135 months in federal prison.

This sentence was based in part on prior criminal conduct committed by Mr. Coleman. Specifically, he was charged in a military court in 1998 for possessing child pornography. He admitted at that time that he had sexual contact with at least 3 underage boys while

deployed overseas, and that he would likely engage in similar conduct with young boys in this country if given the opportunity. Judge Moon appropriately considered all of this conduct - the receipt of pornographic images and the disturbing molestation of children, in imposing sentence today.

Today's sentence adds to the success of the entire investigation and prosecutions, which have dismantled this conspiracy. The other five members prosecuted here in the WDVA, have received more than 50 years in prison. Other defendants prosecuted in Pennsylvania, have received \_\_\_\_ years in prison.

Today's outcome, and the outcomes of previous defendants are appropriately harsh. They reflect the hard work of the prosecutors standing behind me and all the investigators who brought these cases and this awful conduct to light. I want to thank all of those responsible for this case for their outstanding work.

### III. Prosecuting Child Exploitation

As I said at the outset, this case reflects the priority that the Department of Justice places on the issue of child exploitation. We take these child pornography and exploitation cases extremely seriously and have elevated them among the various criminal justice challenges we face.

One significant federal resource utilized by our office is Project Safe Childhood, an initiative begun by the Department of Justice in 2006 to help federal, state and local law enforcement locate, apprehend and prosecute individuals who exploit children via the internet.

Since the program began in 2006, the number of federal prosecutions regarding those who exploit children over the internet has climbed each year. It has also provided training and prevention resources. In our office, Nancy Healey leads our Project Safe Childhood effort. In addition to prosecuting pedophiles like Jesse Coleman, Nancy goes to schools and talks to parents about internet safety. She also helps

train other prosecutors and law enforcement personnel to investigate and apprehend other child predators.

Project Safe Childhood helps us bring a comprehensive approach to this problem. We work hard to bring serious offenders to justice. But we also do what we can to prevent victimization, alerting kids and their parents about the dangers that lurk on line. We combine front end solutions like training and education with back end responses, like cases and long jail sentences that result. We must approach this problem from both directions if we are to be successful.

#### IV. CEOS

I want to turn this over now to Drew, my partner from CEOS.

#### V. Conclusion

I want to say a final word about the most important aspect of all of this - the real victims of these cases - our children. We take each and every one of these cases very seriously because we know the exploitation of children has long-lasting and real effects on their lives.

These children are forced to suffer through the physical abuse of sexual assault and then must endure the mental trauma of knowing their image is being traded online. Many of the victims of child pornography that have been identified and have testified before Congress describe how knowing that images of their abuses were being traded for sexual gratification was as bad, if not worse, than the abuse itself. In a very real sense, each image of child pornography represents an abused child and a shattered life.

I thought I would close with a quote from a recent sentencing in a case we prosecuted. Judge Samuel Wilson said this when sentencing a defendant in a federal child pornography case that we prosecuted in Harrisonburg:

"Our basic liberties are not nearly as basic as the right of a child to be left alone and to mature in a home in a way that's befitting their situation as a human being in a human family. There is nothing more degrading and more degenerative and nothing more unkind or



hateful or excessive than to sexually abuse a child. . . . We circle our wagons around our children. It has been a long tradition that when our children are in trouble, we circle the wagons around them and people would die protecting the last child that wagon was circled around."

Judge Wilson's strong words are exactly right - we need to circle our wagons around our children. Project Safe Childhood and the other efforts you heard about today are one way in which we are trying to do just that - protect our kids.